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### Leaving A Legacy in the Public Interest

UB Law Forum

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# Leaving a legacy in the public interest



Terry M.  
Richman '86

UB School of Law's proud tradition of supporting its students' public-interest commitment has been strengthened with a bequest from **Terry M. Richman '86**.

Richman, who entered law school at age 39, passed away earlier this year in Wilmington, N.C. She leaves behind her husband of more than 50 years, Ted, and their daughter, Lisa.

At the School of Law, Richman was a senior editor of the *Buffalo Law Review*, and also won the intramural Charles S. Desmond Moot Court

Competition. After graduation, she worked in private practice, primarily with the Rochester law firm Underberg & Kessler. She was active with the Greater Rochester Association for Women Attorneys, serving as its president in 1996-97 and receiving the organization's President's Award in 2000.

Among her many community service interests, she was on the board of Rochester's and Wilmington, N.C.'s public radio stations; served as a labor arbitrator; co-



Luwing Peché Loayza '18 and  
Sarah Gardner '19

founded a community giving organization; and was active in Democratic politics – "all while mentoring women lawyers, raising a wonderful daughter and reading bales of mystery books," her family notes.

The initial draw from her bequest supported the

summer public-interest internships of two students: Sarah Gardner '19 and two-year J.D. student Luwing Peché Loayza '18.

"It's heartening to see a classmate of mine provide funding so that people can continue in her footsteps

## Summers to remember

Twenty-six UB School of Law students spent their summer working in the public interest, with financial support that made these (typically unpaid) positions tenable.

Meet our 2017 Public Interest Fellows ...

### BPILP Fellows:

*Charles E. Mann Public Interest Award Recipient:*

- Kaitlin Kramer '19  
U.S. Attorney's Office,  
Western District of New  
York, Buffalo

*Dean's Buffalo Public Interest Law Program Fellow*

- Lindsey Johnson '19  
Hon. Charles J. Siragusa,  
U.S. District Court  
Western District of New  
York, Rochester

*UB Law Alumni Association's Buffalo Public Interest Law Program Fellow*

- Olenka Masny '19  
Legal Assistance of  
Western New York,  
Rochester

*Buffalo Public Interest Law Program Fellows*

- Alana Bernhardt '19  
Ontario County Public  
Defender's Office,  
Canandaigua
- Kodai Sinclair Okano '18  
Erie County District  
Attorney's Office, Buffalo
- Genevieve Rados '19  
Hon. Lawrence J. Vilardo,  
U.S. District Court  
Western District of New  
York, Buffalo

*Buffalo Public Interest Law Program Grantee*

- Emily Stoufer Quinn '18  
Legal Aid Society of  
Rochester, Family Law Unit,  
Rochester

### Julie Freudenheim '88 Fellow:

- Kaylan Porter '18  
Hon. William M. Skretny,  
U.S. District Court  
Western District of New  
York, Buffalo

### Garry Graber '78 Fellow:

- Breanna Reilly '19  
Erie County Bar  
Association's Volunteer  
Lawyers Project, Buffalo

### Kaplan & Reynolds Fellows:

- Allyson Kehl '18  
Federal Public Defender's  
Office, Western District of  
New York, Buffalo
- Amanda Oppermann '18  
Journey's End Refugee  
Services, Buffalo

- Luwing Peché Loayza '18  
Chautauqua County Public  
Defender's Office,  
Mayville

### Terry M. Richman '86 Fellows:

- Sarah Gardner '19  
Neighborhood Legal  
Services, Buffalo
- Luwing Peché Loayza '18  
Chautauqua County Public  
Defender's Office,  
Mayville

### Suzanne E. Tomkins Women, Children and Social Justice Advocacy Fellow:

- Chelsie Roberts '18  
Wyoming County District  
Attorney's Office, Warsaw

### Western New York Law Center Fellow:

- Alyssa Bergsten '19  
Western New York Law  
Center, Buffalo

working in public-interest areas while they pursue their legal education," says Melinda Saran '86, a law school classmate of Richman's and now the law school's vice dean for social justice initiatives. "I'm sure she was hoping that other law students will follow her lead and work in the public interest, either as their full-time endeavor or doing pro bono activities as she did."

The first two Terry M. Richman Fellows expressed gratitude for the opportunities that this financial support afforded them.

"I have learned invaluable skills and information," says Gardner, who interned at Neighborhood Legal Services in Buffalo. "But, more than anything, my eyes have been opened as to the need that is present not only for helping clients, but for new legislation. The laws themselves that disadvantage the poorest members of our communities, but favor those who are more well-off, are unfair and need to be changed. Often, such changes need to start with legislation. This is a part of the law that I would like to get a chance to pursue more in the future."

Says Loayza, a native of Peru who worked at the Chautauqua County Public Defender's Office: "I firmly believe that the work of the public defender is significant because it helps people to be heard and have, sometimes, another chance to change their lives. The experience I gained is valuable and has inspired me to continue a career in the public service."

Additional fellowship recipients:

**Catalyst Public Service Fellows:**

- Heather Burley '19 Chautauqua County Public Defender's Office, Mayville
- Andrew Plewinski '18 Legal Aid Society, Criminal Defense Practice, New York City
- Jordan Sieracki '18 Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo, Attorneys for Children Unit, Buffalo

**Buffalo Human Rights Center Fellows:**

- Chelsea Gonzalez '19 ACLU of Puerto Rico, Women's Rights Project, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- Shazia Khan '18 Amnesty International USA, New York City
- Natalia Marte '19 ACLU of Puerto Rico,

Ending Mass Incarceration Project, San Juan, Puerto Rico

- Leighann Ramirez '19 Ayuda, Washington, D.C.
- Bethany Taylor '19 Legal Services of Central New York, Cancer Legal Advocacy & Services Project, Syracuse

**Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps J.D. Program Fellow:**

- Olenka Masny '19 Legal Assistance of Western New York, Rochester

**New York Bar Foundation Trusts and Estates Law Section Fellow:**

- Nicole Mutignani '19 Hon. Barbara Howe, Erie County Surrogate's Court, Buffalo



Past Discover Law Program participants

## Our award-winning Discover Law Program is back!

Thanks in part to a grant from the University at Buffalo, the law school is pleased to announce the sixth summer of Discover Law, our award-winning diversity pipeline program for undergraduate students. Designed to increase access and diversity in the legal profession, this four-week "law boot camp" program will be held again in June 2018.

Through Discover Law, a select group of up to 20 students will have the opportunity to learn firsthand about the rigors of law school and the legal profession, as well as how to best prepare for the law school admissions process.

To learn more about Discover Law or to support the program, visit: [law.buffalo.edu/ScholarsProgram](http://law.buffalo.edu/ScholarsProgram)



President Satish K. Tripathi, Anthony J. Colucci Jr. '58, Carmela M. Colucci and Dean Aviva Abramovsky

## Colucci gift promotes legal scholarship

A major gift by Anthony J. Colucci Jr. '58 and his wife, Carmela, has memorialized the couple's commitment to legal scholarship and the *Buffalo Law Review*, and includes an endowed scholarship for *Law Review* students. In recognition of the Coluccis' generosity, the *Law Review's* office suite on the sixth floor of O'Brian Hall has been renamed the "Anthony J. Colucci Jr. Esq. '58 Buffalo Law Review Suite."